

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2006

PRESENT: Shawn Costello, James Gage, Walter Moody, Jesse Amsel, Glenn Eberly (arrived at 7:08) and George Nickerson

ABSENT: David Hurley

STAFF

PRESENT: Reanna Goodreau, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Costello called the Ellington Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

III. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of the open space proposal for the Brittani Farms Subdivision located on Grant Road, APN 005-048-0002 (9 lots, 11.42 acres)

Mark Peterson, Gardner & Peterson Associates, came forward to present the proposal. He explained that the subject parcel is located on Grant Road, consists of approximately 11 ½ acres, and is proposed to be subdivided into 9 lots. Mr. Peterson stated that there is no abutting open space parcels, so they are proposing fee in-lieu of open space.

Chairman Costello and Commissioner Gage stated that they felt fee in-lieu of open was appropriate for this subdivision.

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (NICKERSON) AND PASSED (ABSTAINED: EBERLY) TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION ACCEPT FEE IN-LIEU OF OPEN SPACE FOR THE BRITTANI FARMS SUBDIVISION.

2. Review of the open space proposal for the Przybylski Subdivision located at 45 Crane Road, APN 069-001-0000 (4 lots, 64.35 acres)

Mark Peterson, Gardner & Peterson Associates, came forward to present the proposal. He explained that the subject parcel is located on Crane & Abbott Roads, consists of approximately 64 acres, and is proposed to be subdivided into 4 lots, one of which has an existing home on it.

He noted that the 3 new lots would be located in the northeast corner of the lot, along the paved section of Abbott Road. The property owner farms the land along the Crane Road side. Mr. Peterson stated that there is no open space parcels in the vicinity, so they are proposing fee in-lieu of open space.

Commissioner Gage noted that the land is located in Farm Belt of the commission's proposed Plan of Conservation and the commission should consider preserving some of that land.

There was an extensive discussion regarding fee in-lieu of open space.

The commission discussed whether to accept open space on the Crane Road or Abbott Road side for preserving farmland and/or a future park on the Crane Road side or for possible park land on the Abbot Road side. The commission wanted to walk the site prior to the May meeting. Reanna Goodreau suggested that Mr. Peterson present two options for open space at each road side at the May meeting.

BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION CONTINUED THIS TO THE MAY 30, 2006 MEETING.

MOVED (MOODY), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACTS OF ROUTES 140 & 30 TO CRYSTAL LAKE.

3. Discussion of the Impacts of Routes 140 & 30 to Crystal Lake

Chairman Costello explained that he filed a formal complaint with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the drainage and run-off into Crystal Lake. He stated that the DOT is considering switching from sand to salt in the winters. He suggested continuing this item to the May meeting to allow members from the Crystal Lake Association to join the discussion.

BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION CONTINUED THIS TO THE MAY 30, 2006 MEETING.

MOVED (COSTELLO), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: DISCUSSION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT.

4. Discussion of the North Central District Health Department 2005-2006 Annual Report

Chairman Costello explained that is he now a member of the North Central District Health Department Board (NCDHD) of Directors. He reviewed the NCDHD 2005-2006 Annual Report and noted that Ellington is the highest in all categories, which is proof of the extreme development pressures. He stated that he would be reviewing this information with the Board of Selectmen.

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (COSTELLO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: DISCUSSION OF A REFERENDUM FOR OPEN SPACE BONDING.

5. Discussion of a Referendum for Open Space Bonding

Commissioner Gage stated that the discussion of a referendum for open space bonding is on the Board of Selectman's agenda for the May 15, 2006 meeting and encouraged the members to attend in support.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Review of the Draft Plan of Conservation

Chairman Costello stated that he would like to see the commission adopt a Plan of Conservation. He explained that there are two versions, which include the modified original version and Commissioner Gage's modified version. Chairman Costello stated that he believed it is better to adopt the modified original version since it is more comprehensive. He noted that a condensed version of the plan will be in the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of adopting each plan. Several members thought that Commissioner Gage's modified version should be the Commission's plan and also should be incorporated into the POCD. Others thought that the more comprehensive plan should be adopted now, and if they wanted to condense it in the future, they could.

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED (NAYS: COSTELLO & NICKERSON) TO ACCEPT JIM GAGE'S MODIFIED VERSION OF THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION.

Chairman Costello expressed his disappointed with having the condensed version adopted.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the March 28, 2006 Meeting Minutes:

MOVED (EBERLY), SECONDED (MOODY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 28, 2006 MEETING MINUTES.

2. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Peter Charter to the First Selectman, 4/3/06 (Questions raised at Conservation Commission Meeting)
- b. Willimantic River Greenway Review, Spring 2006
- c. Connecticut Wildlife, March/April 2006
- d. College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Journal, Spring 2006

SO NOTED.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOVED (MOODY), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN
THE MEETING AT 8:34 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau
Recording Secretary